

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

February 2011 Edition

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Welcome!

It's a pleasure to reach out and notify my constituents on informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with my office so that I may review them for inclusion in this newsletter!

I have included in this newsletter details on how you can get involved in our community through volunteering or

participation which are included at the end of this edition.

Please continue to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

Rescued Rabbits Need Loving Pet-Friendly Homes!

Howard County Animal Control rescued approximately 78 rabbits mid-January. While most have found adoptive homes, approximately 28 rabbits still need to find a loveable pet-friendly home.

There is a fee of \$30 for rabbit adoption, which covers the cost of mandatory spay and neuter surgery. Please contact the Animal Control office at 410-313-2780 for more details on how to adopt one of these animals.

2nd Annual Howard County Passport to Financial Literacy!

makingCHANGE will present its 2nd Annual Howard County Passport to Financial Literacy event on **Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 10am-2pm** held at **Howard Community College**. This event is **FREE** and designed as an interactive experience for teens and their parents and/or guardians, simulating "real life" financial planning, goal setting and decision making experiences. Students will move through 20 stations addressing education levels, desired occupation choices and taking into consideration stations such as salary, taxes, banking, budgeting, bill paying, saving, living expenses, car buying, wants vs. needs, credits cards and much, much more!

For more information, visit www.passporttofinancialliteracy.com. To register in advance, visit hocopassporttofinancialliteracy.eventbrite.com/.

Sixth Annual Howard County Black Saga Competition!

Black Saga is an academic challenge on African American history that involves students from participating elementary and middle schools in Howard County. The sixth annual Howard County Black Saga Competition will be held on **Saturday, February 5, 2011** from 9:15am to 3pm at **Veterans Elementary School, 4355 Montgomery Road in Ellicott City, MD.**

Come out and support our students! The middle school opening ceremony begins at 9:15am and the competition will conclude with an awards presentation at 11:30am. The elementary school competition will begin at 1pm and conclude with an awards ceremony at 3:00pm.

In the event of inclement weather, the snow date for this event will be Saturday, February 19, 2011. For more info, contact **Dr. Mark Stout**, Curriculum Coordinator for Secondary Social Studies at **410-313-6622**.

Baltimore's Child Camps and Summer Programs Fair in Howard County!

Now's the time to start preparing for summer camp activities for your children. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 11am-2pm** at the **Glenwood Community Center, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville, MD.** Don't miss this opportunity to meet with Directors and their staff, learn about many wonderful options available for your kids and enjoy the **FREE** entertainment scheduled throughout the event. Plus, there will be an opportunity to win a camp scholarship for your child!

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. For more information or to register, call **Janice Hands** at **410-592-3899** or visit www.baltimoreschild.com/fairs/index.cfm?fuse1=camp.

Alianza de la Comunidad: Active Parenting Workshop!

Learn how to discuss techniques and topics to build a closer relationship with your children! Alianza de la Comunidad will be holding a six-week Active Parenting Workshop for parents of adolescents starting **Monday, February 7, 2011**. The workshop will meet once per week to discuss: communication, organization, improved cooperation, discipline, respect, and much, much more. Sessions are held in **SPANISH**. The dates of the course are as follows: **February 7, 14, 28 March 7, 14, and 21** from **6pm to 8pm** at **Guilford Elementary School, 7335 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046**. Childcare is available.

For more information or to register, contact **Sandra Gutierrez** at **443-739-6174, 443-812-8486** or **Zulma Acuna** at **240-925-1006**.

Bowling for a Change!

Come out for a great time and support a wonderful cause at the same time! The Arc of Howard County will host Bowling for a Change on **Saturday, February 5, 2011** from **7pm-9pm** at the **Brunswick Columbia Lanes, 7100 Carved Stone, Columbia, MD 21046**.

For more information, contact **Kathy Swanson** at kswanson@archoward.org or call **410-730-0638**.

Guiding Your Child!

Attention Parents, Caregivers and Educators... Guiding Your Child – Strategies and Approaches for Improving Behavior is a class for parents of children with special needs. This course is great for those who may have a child with a developmental disability, developmental delay, learning disability, attention problem or hyperactivity and is showing behavior problems such as not listening, tantrums or other disruptive behaviors. You will learn how to use current approaches to improve your child's behavior, help your child experience success, and enhance your family life.

There will be group discussions, classroom demonstrations and in home assignments. Parents are encouraged to participate as couples; single parents are welcome to bring a relative or friend. Sessions are **February 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 2011** from **7pm-9pm** at **The Arc of Howard County, 11735 Homewood Road in Ellicott City, MD**. There is a \$20 registration fee per family. Scholarships and assistance with the cost of childcare are available. For more information, call **410-730-0638 x220** or email bsackandy@archoward.org.

Cardiovascular Clinic at the Mall!

Howard County General Hospital, Center Wellness is hosting a Cardiovascular Clinic at the Mall in Columbia. This event is **FREE** to attendees and will offer a variety of information booths as well as physicians on hand to answer questions and perform health screenings. This event will be held on **Saturday, February 12, 2011 from 11am-3pm** located on the Second Level near J. Crew in the Mall, **10300 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia, MD.**

Screenings will include blood pressure measurement, total cholesterol blood tests, glucose blood test, body mass index (BMI) measurement, including height and weight, bone density testing and pulmonary function testing. For more information, call **410-740-7601**.

Roots of Howard County in Celebration of African American History!

The Villages of Columbia are pleased to announce the sixth annual presentation of "Roots of Howard County in Celebration of African American History" on **Sunday, February 13, 2011 from 3pm-5pm at Historic Oakland Manor, 5430 Vantage Point Road in Columbia, MD.** Admission is **FREE** and there is no snow date scheduled.

FREE light refreshments will be served and enjoy a tour of the African Art Museum of Maryland as well as many other exciting opportunities. For more details, call **410-730-4744** or email tcvillage@columbiavillages.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON HOWARD COUNTY!

I'd like to take a brief moment and acknowledge some outstanding individuals and groups in Howard County whom recently I've had the privilege to present with an Honorary Resolution from the Howard County Council.

Mrs. Martha Dotson, retiring from the Social Security Administration after 40 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Stacy Spann, Director of Howard County Housing named "Young Leader" Award Recipient.

Deep Run Community celebrating its 20th birthday.

Girls on the Run to honor their commitment in promoting self-respect and healthy living.

Leadership Howard County celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

The Howard County Chinese School celebrating the 4709th Chinese New Year Celebration

Dating Violence Forum!

Each year, approximately one in four adolescents report verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. One in three teens report knowing a friend or peer who has been physically hurt by his or her partner through violent actions which included hitting, punching, kicking, slapping and/or choking.

To raise awareness, the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County in partnership with Howard Community College will host a Dating Violence Forum on **Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 6pm** with registration beginning at 5:30pm. It will be held in the **Kittleman Room, Duncan Hall Building, Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia, MD.**

FREE refreshments will be served. Advance registration is preferred but not required. Those who register in advance will be entered in the grand prize drawing: an Apple iPod Nano Touch. For more information and to register, visit www.dvcenter.org or call **410-997-0304**.

BGE to Host Community Meeting!

BGE owns and operates a natural gas pipeline within a 50' wide easement that begins in Fulton, travels through parts of five villages in Columbia – Harper's Choice, Wilde Lake, Town Center, Oakland Mills and Long Reach – and terminates in ElkrIDGE. BGE plans to remove trees and vegetation along the easement and in close proximity to the pipeline – a width of 10' on either side of the pipeline for a total width of 20'. The pipeline location within the easement is marked with yellow discs at ground level and with upright yellow markers. The work is expected to begin in late February and will take several months to complete. This work will include the removal of tree limbs that overhang the pipeline. The company is conducting this activity for several reasons:

- to enable a clear line of sight for routine aerial inspections of the pipeline
- to provide unimpeded access to the pipeline for inspection and maintenance
- to prevent tree roots from damaging the protective coating on the pipe

The work will begin in late February. Residents may see activity occurring as there are numerous footpath crossings along the easement. Crews will post temporary signage to warn footpath users that vegetation management work is being conducted. In order to better explain the scope of work, BGE has scheduled a community meeting for **Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Wilde Lake High School, located at 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, Md. 21044.** The meeting will be held in the cafeteria.

BGE understands the value of trees within communities and strives to balance that with the need to manage and operate our facilities safely and reliably. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we undertake this important work. Feel free to contact us at **410-685-0123** or online at www.bge.com

Columbia Association International Exchange Program!

Experience a different culture and travel abroad! The International Exchange Program offers a fantastic opportunity for youth and adults with Columbia's sister cities – Tres Cantos, Spain and Cergy-Pontoise, France. Applicants must be high school students who reside in Howard County and have completed high school level two of Spanish or French or have the equivalent language fluency by the end of the academic year of participation. Scholarships may be available for students requiring financial assistance.

The application deadline is quickly approaching which is **Friday, February 18, 2011**. For an application and additional details, visit www.columbiaassociation.com/pdfs/getinvolved/SisterCitiesExchangeApplication.pdf or call Laura Smit, Program Manager at 410-715-3162 or email Laura.Smit@ColumbiaAssociation.com.

14th Annual Bike Maryland Bicycle Symposium

You won't want to miss this event! On **Tuesday, February 22, 2011** from 8:30am to 4pm, the Symposium will bring together fellow advocates, industry leaders, on and off-road recreational cyclists and commuters and public and non-profit sector leaders from the Tri-State Region. The goal is to educate and empower advocates and attendees, identify common issues in our local communities, set priorities for improving the future of bicycling and demonstrate the economic impact of our state's bicycling community.

The event will be held at the **East Miller Office Building in the President's Conference Center, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401**. To register, visit <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=375>.

Project: Prom Dress!

Donations have been made and now it's time to launch the boutique portion of this event. On **Sunday, February 27, 2011** from 11am-3pm, at the Howard County YMCA, Project Prom Dress will be selling the dresses donated during January. Prices will be reasonable and all proceeds will go to the American Red Cross of Central Maryland. For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, email projectpromdresshoward@gmail.com.

HCPSS Annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fair!

The Howard County Public School System would like to invite you to the Annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Middle School and High School Fair. Both events will be held at **Atholton High School, 6520 Freetown Road in Columbia, MD**. The Middle School Fair will be held on **Friday, February 25, 2011** from **6-8:30pm** and the High School Fair will be **Saturday, February 26, 2011 9am-12pm**. The Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2011 3pm-4:15pm and the Awards Presentations will be held Saturday, February 26, 2011 4:30pm-6pm. Snow dates are March 4 and 5, 2011 at Reservoir High School, 11550 Scaggsville Rd in Fulton, MD.

For more information, call **Mary Drew** at 410-313-6615.

Jazz in the Mills!

Jazz in the Mills will WOW you with melodious sounds and the inexhaustible talent of the performers. You are invited to be a part of this exciting Jazz series on **Sunday, February 27, 2011** from **5-7pm** at **The Other Barn** in Oakland Mills, **5851 Robert Oliver Place**. Featured artist will be Amy Shook featuring Felicia Carter. Tickets are \$15 in advance (plus Brown Paper Ticket fee) and can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/144233 or \$20 at the door.

For more information, contact **Sandy Cedarbaum** at 410-730-4610 or email omca@columbiavillages.org.

Columbia Festival of the Arts – 2011 Season Design Contest!

The Columbia Festival of the Arts invites K-12 students to enter its 2011 Season Design Contest. The winning entry will be featured on the cover of the season brochure and program magazine. Additionally, the winner will receive \$500! Deadline submission is **Friday, March 4, 2011**.

For more information or to obtain an Entry Submission form, visit www.ColumbiaFestival.com. Click the “Participate” tab. Multiple entries will be accepted.

Silas Craft Collegians at Hunan Manor!

The Howard Community College Educational Foundation and the Hunan Manor Restaurant cordially invite you to the 12th annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. The dinner buffet will be served continuously on **Monday, March 7, 2011** from **5-8pm** at the **Hunan Manor Restaurant, 7091 Deepage Drive, Columbia, MD**.

Tickets are \$40 per person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the HCC Development Office at **443-518-1970** or visit www.howardcc.edu/specialevents.

Grow It & Eat It!

The Master Gardeners will present a wonderful presentation on how to prepare your soil and maintain a healthy garden. This event will be held on **Monday, March 14, 2011** at **7pm** located in the Stonehouse in Columbia, MD.

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. To register or for more information, call **410-730-8113** or email info@longreach.org.

Now Seeking Nominations for Excellence in Programs for Children!

Do you know people or programs that make a positive impact on the lives of our Howard County children? The Howard County Office of Children Services is now seeking nominations for this year’s Excellence in Programs for Children. They will be recognized at the 12th annual “Celebrating Successes for Children” ceremony. This ceremony will salute those special individuals such as mentors, child care providers, Scout leaders, coaches, human service workers and volunteers. Plan to nominate an outstanding individual by **Wednesday, March 23, 2011**. Nominees do not have to be a resident of Howard County; however, program or business nominees must be located in Howard County.

For more information, call **410-313-1940** or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/children to obtain a nomination form.

World Music Series!

Oakland Mills Music and Arts Committee will present the new “World Music Series” debut performance **Sunday March, 20, 2011 from 5-7pm**. It will feature Kwame Ansah and Fritete Afrobeat, a fusion of Afrobeats with western instruments. For a sneak peak, visit www.fritete.com. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Order online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/141962.

Celebration of the Arts in Howard County Gala!

This year’s gala will mark the 30th Anniversary of the Howard County Arts Council and Howard County’s signature event, the Celebration of the Arts in Howard County Gala will be held at its new location, the **Peter and Elizabeth Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center at Howard Community College!** ! Come celebrate with us on **Saturday, March 26, 2011 from 6-10pm** and enjoy the reception including culinary delights from area restaurants and caterers, bid on a fabulous new piece at the silent auction with work by local artists and enjoy performances throughout the Grand Hall and Art Lounge.

Tickets will become available for purchase in January 2011 so please continue to check the website for additional information at www.hocoarts.org or call **410-313-ARTS (2787)**.

Winter Art Classes at Howard County Center for the Arts!

Interested in registering in art classes and discovering your inner artist this winter session? The Howard County Center for the Arts winter class enrollment is now open and classes begin **January 2011 and typically run through March 2011**. From summer camps for our children and teens to drop-in model sessions for adults, the Howard County Center for the Arts offers students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities quality arts experiences and a chance to discover their unique creative talents. The Center provides a wide variety of classes in a nurturing and positive learning environment. For more details, visit www.hocoarts.org/schedule_of_classes.php.

Fifth Annual Money Matters Fair: A Fresh Start

Howard County Council Chairman Calvin Ball is partnering with the Howard Community College, the Howard County Library and makingCHANGE to host their fifth annual Money Matters Fair: A Fresh Start. This event will be held **Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 10am-1pm** at the **Howard County Library East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia, MD**.

This event is **FREE** and open to the public and will offer a variety of resources to residents and provide an opportunity to interact with experts who can assist in making sound financial decisions. For more details, contact **Kimberly Pruim at 410-313-2001**.

GreenFest 2011

GreenFest 2011 will be held on **Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia, MD**. For more information, visit GreenFest online at www.hcgreenfest.org.

BB&T Presents Chocolate Ball to Celebrate 50th Anniversary of The Arc

BB&T will present Chocolate Ball 2011 "Golden Opportunities" in celebration of The Arc of Howard County's 50th anniversary on **Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 7pm-midnight** at the **Kossiakoff Center, John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory**. The black-tie-preferred event is expected to be a sell-out so get your tickets soon! For more information, contact Kathy Swanson, Director of Resource Development at kswanson@archoward.org or call **410-730-0638 x306**.

Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair!

The Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair will be held **Saturday, April 9, 2011**. The location and time of this event has yet to be scheduled so please mark your calendars to save the date and visit www.comehometohowardcounty.org for updated information or call **410-313-6320**.

Simply Fierce Fashion Show

Howard County teens are invited to participate in this inaugural event to be held on **Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 2-4pm** at **The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place #2 in Columbia, MD**. It will showcase local fashion and/or jewelry designer's products and their own unique style. Any Howard County teen aged 11-17 is eligible to participate; no prior experience necessary.

Interested models and fashion/jewelry designers are asked to contact **Shawnte Berry at 410-313-4704** or sberry@howardcountymd.gov.

2011 Rebuilding Day!

Rebuilding Together Howard County is now accepting homeowner applications for its' 2011 Rebuilding Day on **Saturday, April 30, 2011**. Volunteers deliver **FREE** services on National Rebuilding Day using donated materials and supplies to ensure a warm, safe and dry home for low income homeowners, families, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and veterans in Howard County.

For more information or an application, call **410-381-3338**, email info@rebuildingtogetherhc.org or visit www.rebuildingtogetherhc.org.

SHA Pilot Lighting Project on MD Route 100 in Howard County to Reduce Energy Consumption!

The State Highway Administration is initiating a pilot lighting reduction project on MD Route 100 in Howard County in the interest of reducing energy consumption while maintaining the safety of the roadway. Route 100 was selected as one of two pilot projects to reduce the number of lighting fixtures that are lit without compromising the safety of the traveling public. Route 100 was selected as a roadway that SHA felt will have sufficient lighting after it de-energizes the approximately 75 light poles in the corridor as part of the pilot.

The poles that have been selected to be turned off are marked with fluorescent green bands of tape around the lower section of the light pole and the work to disconnect the power from these fixtures will be performed within a month. If the pilot proves to be successful, we will physically remove the actual light poles and store them in inventory to replace existing light poles that are damaged in the future.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact **David Coyne, District Engineer** at 301-624-8102 or email dcoyne@sha.state.md.us.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club has been formed and will begin in **January 2011**. It will be held from 9:00am-1:00pm Wednesdays and Fridays and Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at 410-313-5441. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) will be holding its February meeting **Friday, February 18, 2011** from 7:30am-10:30am at the **Fort Meade Golf Clubhouse, 6800 Taylor Road Fort Meade, MD**. This event will focus on Fort Meade, its operations and its tenants. BBI members and the public are invited to attend but you **MUST RSVP** to gain access to the installation. Seats are limited and going fast! Email **Jill Joubert** at jjoubert@hceda.org with the following subject heading: "Fort Meade BBI Meeting #2" and in the body please spell out your FIRST and LAST name as well as the names of the any additional persons in your vehicle.

Not a business owner but still interested in what's going on relating to BRAC? Join us for our Update Meetings typically held the **4th Wednesday of each month** from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, **Howard County Gateway Office Building, Suite 500**. For specific dates, please call **Kent Menser** at 410-313-6521 or email kmenser@howardcountymd.gov. These meetings are **FREE** and open to the public; however, seating is limited so please plan to arrive early.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at 410-313-6376 or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Deer Management Program for 2010-2011 Season!

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. The hunted will be held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows:

Alpha Ridge Park:

Bow & Shotgun February 3
Sharpshooting February 3 (6am to Noon); March 14 (4:30pm to Midnight)

Autumn View Subdivision:

Sharpshooting February 14; March 10

Blandair Park:

Bow Hunting February 2

Centennial Park:

Sharpshooting February 22

Daniels Mill Overlook Open Space Lot:

Sharpshooting February 7; March 3

Gray Rock Open Space Lot:

Sharpshooting February 24; March 7

Hollifield Farm Open Space Lot:

Sharpshooting February 7; March 3

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area:

Bow & Shotgun February 10

Mt. Hebron Open Space Lot:

Sharpshooting February 7; March 3

Rockburn Branch Park:

Sharpshooting February 17, 28

Timbers at Troy Golf Course:

Sharpshooting February 17, 28

Worthington Park:

Sharpshooting February 14; March 10

Mentors & Tutors Wanted!

A-OK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring Program needs adult volunteers to work in Howard County schools, grades K-8, and after-school programs. A-OK works with several schools including Oakland Mills MS, Phelps Luck and Talbott Springs ES. For more info, call 410-730-2273 or email chayakaplan@verizon.net

Newest Feature for Maryland's Workforce Exchange!

This week, a new web feature was unveiled on Maryland's Workforce Exchange. The new feature uses web "spidering technology" which collects and combines every job search website, every employer website, and every job posting in Maryland and creates a real-time, web-based, one-stop shop for Maryland job seekers.

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State's employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwe.dllr.state.md.us/default.asp?SessionUID=a>

Economic Indicators Released for Howard County!

The Howard County Government and the Howard County Chamber of Commerce recently released a joint publication describing economic indicators for Howard County and surrounding areas. This information is able to provide advance warning of possible shifts in the local economy that may be helpful in the evaluation of current and future government policies and private sector business decisions.

To view this report, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DOA/DOApdfs/September%202010.pdf.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling_chart_web.pdf or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Environmental_Homepage.htm.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at 7:30pm the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call 410-313-6682 or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

The Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large.

Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website www.howardcountysafety.org. I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For a list of providers, visit <http://www.co.ho.md.us/health/docs/urgentcarecenterslist5-2010.pdf>. For additional information, contact our Health Department online at http://www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health_HomePage.htm or call 410-313-6300.

What to Know if You See Snow!

The Howard County Department of Public Works is responsible for removing snow from our county roads. We proudly have more than 100 snow removal vehicles and have approximately 13,000 tons of salt stored in salt barns throughout Howard County.

The activities of the snow removal trucks can be followed by logging into the Howard County Homepage at www.howardcountymd.gov and click the "Snow Plow Tracker" icon or accessed directly at <http://snow2.co.ho.md.us/Index.asp>. You will then see a map of the county which shows the status of the county's roads, whether they have been plowed or treated with de-icing materials.

TIPS: To guard against flooding, please uncover and clear an area around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding. After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported immediately to the Bureau of Utilities at **410-313-4900**.

Tired of getting snowed in by the plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or, try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb – about the length of a parking space – ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway. Also, if possible, please do not park cars along the streets or in cul-de-sacs. This makes it more difficult for plows to successfully clear the snow.

For seniors, there may be assistance available for your shoveling needs. For more details, please call **(410) 313-5980**. If you have any additional questions, please send an email to publicworks@howardcountymd.gov.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money. In addition to the information below, I encourage residents to visit our Howard County Government's website at www.co.ho.md.us/servicesresidents_financialassistance.htm. On this site, you will find resources for a variety of assistance including but not limited to child care, food, energy, water and housing.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm or by calling **410-313-4076**.

Senior Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/SeniorCreditApp.pdf

Homeowners Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf

Homestead Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Daycare.pdf

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Emergencyworker.pdf

Disabled Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/DisabledPoliceRescueWorker.pdf

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor_FraudAlertForm.asp. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous by leaving blank those fields requesting personal information. You should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

Boards and Commissions Vacancies!

Howard County is well known for our active and informed residents which I proudly represent. Whether it's volunteering for an organization or coming out to provide feedback to the County Council, I am honored to be part of a County in which our residents care so much about our communities.

Active involvement is the first step in making positive change in Howard County. At this time, several of our Howard County Board and Commissions still have vacancies. Members are a vital link between our citizens and the officials who represent them and it's so important that we fill these positions so that they may be as effective as possible.

Please visit our website online at http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_boards_vacancies.htm for a list of possible vacancies including any special requirements they may have as well as instructions on how to apply.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

How You Can Participate in Howard County Government!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
District 2
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

cball@howardcountymd.gov

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

We Want to Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of upcoming Council meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."

Martin Luther King, Jr.